



Ref. T2-NAVSEC/2.7.1

MSC.4/Circ.53  
1 June 2004

## REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

### Issued monthly - Acts reported during May 2004

1 In pursuance of the Maritime Safety Committee's instruction to the Secretariat to issue monthly reports of all incidents of piracy<sup>1</sup> and armed robbery against ships<sup>2</sup> reported to the Organization and, in addition, to issue, on a quarterly basis, composite reports accompanied by an analysis, on a regional basis, of the situation and an indication whether the frequency of incidents is increasing or decreasing and advising of any new feature or pattern of significance, the annex hereto provides, in the tabulated format agreed by the Committee, the summary of reports on incidents received between 30 April 2004 and 31 May 2004, including a distinction between acts of piracy and acts of armed robbery against ships (annex 1) and attempted attacks (annex 2). Further and as instructed by the Committee (MSC 75/24, paragraph 18.41), the Secretariat has, since July 2002, started classifying separately any reported incidents of piracy and armed robbery **at sea** (international or territorial waters) vis-à-vis acts of armed robbery allegedly committed **in port areas**, as well as **attempted** acts of armed robbery.

2 The total number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships so far reported to the Organization is 3,552 an increase of 31 since 30 April 2004.

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<sup>1</sup> "Piracy" is defined in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (article 101) as follows:

"Piracy consists of any of the following acts:

- (a) any illegal acts of violence or detention, or any act of depredation, committed for private ends by the crew or the passengers of a private ship or a private aircraft, and directed:
  - (i) on the high seas, against another ship or aircraft, or against persons or property on board such ship or aircraft;
  - (ii) against a ship, aircraft, persons or property in a place outside the jurisdiction of any State;
- (b) any act of voluntary participation in the operation of a ship or of an aircraft with knowledge of facts making it a pirate ship or aircraft;
- (c) any act inciting or of intentionally facilitating an act described in sub-paragraph (a) or (b)."

<sup>2</sup> "Armed robbery against ships" is defined in the Code of Practice for the Investigation of the Crimes of Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships (resolution A.922(22), Annex, paragraph 2.2), as follows:

"Armed robbery against ships means any unlawful act of violence or detention or any act of depredation, or threat thereof, other than an act of "piracy", directed against a ship or against persons or property on board such ship, within a State's jurisdiction over such offences."

3 Previous incidents reported to the Organization since the fifty-ninth session of the Committee have been circulated by various MSC circulars, those issued (on an annual, quarterly and monthly basis) during the current year and up to April 2004 being MSC.4/Circ.47, MSC.4/Circ.48, MSC.4/Circ.49, MSC.4/Circ.50, MSC.4/Circ.51 and MSC.4/Circ.52.

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**ANNEX 1**

**Acts of piracy and armed robbery allegedly committed against ships reported by Member States or international organizations in consultative status**

Nº	Ship's name Type of ship Flag Gross tonnage IMO No.	Date  Time	Position of the incident*	Details of the incident	Consequences for crew, ship, cargo	Action taken by the master and the crew	Was the incident reported to the coastal authority? Which one?	Reporting State or international organization	MSC.4/Circ. 53 ANNEX 1 Page 1
									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS**

1	CATHAY 11 Tug Singapore 141 9252319	08/05/2004 22:00 LT	<i>SOUTH CHINA SEA</i> 05°35'.50S 106°39'.67E 20NM North of Pulau Panjang, Java Sea (Indonesia)	Eleven pirates armed with guns and long knives boarded tug. They threatened crew members injuring two of them and escaped with their loot. Master tried to contact the authorities via VHF but received no response. He then sailed to Merak Port and lodged a report. The Navy and port authorities are investigating	Two crew members sustained injuries; ship's property, equipment, stores and crew's belongings stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. SAR, Jakarta	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
2	DAMANSARA Tanker Malaysia 1598 8421614	09/05/2004 01:30 LT	<i>SOUTH CHINA SEA</i> 01°24'.15N 105°16'.05E East of Bintan Island (Indonesia)	Seven pirates armed with guns and long knives boarded ship, while underway. They tied up 2/O and duty A/B on the bridge and entered Master and crew accommodation and escaped with their loot at 0215LT	2/O and duty A/B tied up on bridge; ship's cash and property and personal belongings of Master, officers and crew stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. SAR, Jakarta	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
3	NA Fishing vessel Malaysia	19/05/2004 21:00 LT	<i>MALACCA STRAIT</i> 39NM Off Gertak Sanggul, Balik Pulau, Penang Island	Six pirates armed with sub-machine guns boarded ship, while underway and kidnapped four crew members demanding a ransom. One hostage was asked to convey ransom demand to the owner who subsequently lodged a report with the Indonesian Police. The Police are searching for the kidnappers and hostages	Four crew members kidnapped	Alarm raised	Yes. Malaysian Police	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	The Indonesian Police are searching for the kidnappers and their victims

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NOTE: SOUTH AMERICA: (A) - Atlantic; (C) - Caribbean; (P) - Pacific

No	Ship's name Type of ship Flag Gross tonnage IMO No.	Date Time	Position of the incident*	Details of the incident	Consequences for crew, ship, cargo	Action taken by the master and the crew	Was the incident reported to the coastal authority? Which one?	Reporting State or international organization	MSC.4/Circ. 53 ANNEX 1 Page 2
									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

#### IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

4	BERJAYA II General cargo ship Singapore 970 9073907	25/05/2004 17:00 LT	MALACCA STRAIT 03°33'.49N 099°41'.80E Off Sumatra Coast	Armed pirates in a speed boat opened fire on ship forcing her to stop, while underway. Four pirates armed with machine guns and grenades boarded ship and proceeded to bridge where they damaged all the communication equipment. They kidnapped Master and C/E, seized all the ship's trading documents and warned ship not to proceed to Belawan which was the next port. Ship proceeded to Pulau Angsa, West Malaysia and awaited instructions from the Managers. Whereabouts of Master and C/E are still unknown	Master and C/E kidnapped and whereabouts still unknown; ship's trading documents stolen and communication equipment damaged	Alarm raised	Yes. MRCC, Port Klang, MECC, Lumut, Marine Police HQ, MINDEF DOR & LAUT and SAR, Jakarta	ICC-IMB Kuala Lumpur	-
5	RUBIN STELLA Bulk carrier Panama 16769 9115080	26/05/2004 02:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA 01°37'.00N 104°37'.00E	Seven pirates armed with knives and pistols boarded ship, while underway. Four crew members were held hostage and threatened with knives. They were then taken to Master's cabin from where they escaped with their loot	Four crew members held hostage; ship's cash, property and crew's personal belongings stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. MRCC, Port Klang, MECC Lumut, Marine Police HQ, MINDEF DOR & LAUT and SAR, Jakarta	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
6	WAN HAI 211 Container ship Singapore 17138 9048574	26/05/2004 04:15 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA 01°42'.00N 104°40'.00E	Seven pirates armed with long knives boarded ship, while underway. C/O was held hostage and taken to Master's cabin; and subsequently to C/O and C/E cabins. Master was then taken to poop deck and pirates disembarked into a waiting boat and escaped with their loot	C/O held hostage and crew's cash and personal belongings stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. MRCC, Port Klang, MECC Lumut, Marine Police HQ, MINDEF DOR & LAUT and SAR, Jakarta	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-

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#### IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

7	RITA D'AMATO Chemical tanker Italy 25400 9253129	31/05/2004 02:25	SOUTH CHINA SEA 01°32'.00N 104°38'.00E	Two pirates boarded ship, while underway and entered the engine room store. The Duty Engineer spotted them and as crew mustered, they jumped overboard and escaped	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. SAR, Jakarta, MRCC Port Klang, MECC Lumut, Marine Police HQ, MINDEF DOR and LAUT	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
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#### IN PORT AREA

1	HELENA OLDENDORFF Bulk carrier Liberia 18469 8118815	14/01/2004 01:20 LT	WEST AFRICA Douala (Cameroon)	Five robbers armed with knives boarded ship on forward part from the sea side using crab hook and escaped with their loot when spotted	Security watchman locked up in hold No.1; walkie-talkie, keys and grinding machine stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Local Police Patrol	Liberia	Local Police Patrol made its routine round having noticed unusual activity on board ship
2	ROKO Refrigerated cargo carrier Bahamas 3955 8205307	02/05/2004 01:10 UTC	WEST AFRICA Inner Anchorage Nouadhibou (Mauritania)	Ten robbers armed with knives boarded ship via anchor chain, while at anchor. They threatened duty A/B with knives and seized his walkie talkie. When crew mustered and ship sounded whistle, they escaped with their loot. Port control was contacted	Watchman threatened; ship's equipment, stores and property stolen	Raised alarm, mustered crew and sounded whistle	Yes. Port Control and Ministere des Peches et de l'Economic Maritime Direction de la Marine Marchande	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	No response was received from port control
3	ROKO Refrigerated cargo carrier Bahamas 3955 8205307	02/05/2004 02:10 UTC	WEST AFRICA Inner Anchorage Nouadhibou (Mauritania)	Three robbers armed with knives boarded ship, while at anchor. When spotted and alert crew mustered and sounded ship's whistle, they escaped with their loot. Port control and pilot station were contacted	Ship's property and stores stolen	Raised alarm, sounded whistle and mustered crew	Yes. Port Control and Ministere des Peches et de l'Economie Maritime, Direction de la Marine Marchande	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	No response received from port control and pilot station

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									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**IN PORT AREA**

4	OCEAN MANTA Tanker Singapore 7463 9123867	03/05/2004 03:35 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Inner Roads, Dumai Anchorage (Indonesia)	Four robbers armed with long knives boarded ship, while at anchor. They entered engine room and held two oilers hostage, tying them up. They broke open store room and as alert A/B spotted them and crew mustered, they escaped empty-handed. Master contacted port control and was requested to stand by	Two oilers held hostage	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. SAR, Jakarta and Port Control	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	No response received from port control
5	CAPE BILLE Chemical tanker Marshall Islands 25108 9260263	04/05/2004 01:25 UTC	WEST AFRICA 05°36'.00N 000°00'.50E Tema Outer Anchorage (Ghana)	Three robbers armed with knives boarded ship, while at anchor. When spotted by duty A/B and crew mustered, they attacked A/B and escaped with their loot	Duty A/B's walkie- talkie stolen	Raised alarm, crew mustered; Master informed all ships at Tema anchorage	Yes. Local authorities and RCC, Ghana	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
6	STOLT HAWK Chemical tanker Liberia 21043 7533575	04/05/2004 04:40 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA SPA Oil Berth, Sandakan Port (Malaysia)	Three robbers, seen by duty officer on routine rounds, boarded ship, while at berth and attempted to break padlock of forecandle store. As crew mustered, they jumped overboard and escaped empty-handed	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. MRCC, Port Klang	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
7	SIMBA Tanker Malta 76992 8617196	07/05/2004 05:55 LT	INDIAN OCEAN 13°05'.70N 080°22'.50E Chennai Anchorage; 3.75 Miles from Water Lighthouse (India)	Robbers armed with knives boarded ship at poop deck, while at anchor. When spotted by duty A/B who activated fire hose, he was threatened and as crew mustered, robbers escaped at 0610 LT in a green boat with their loot. Port control was informed at 0615LT	Duty A/B threatened with knife; ship's equipment stolen	Raised alarm, activated fire hoses and mustered crew	Yes. Port Control, India Coast Guard, Marine Police, Flag and Chennai Port Control	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur and Malta	Marine police boarded at 0836 and were handed photographs of the boat taken with digital camera

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									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**IN PORT AREA**

8	OCEAN PRINCESS Tanker Singapore 2393 8601496	09/05/2004 01:55 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA 01°14'.00N 103°34'.00E Western OPL Anchorage, Singapore Straits (Singapore)	Five robbers armed with knives boarded ship, while at anchor. They took Master, C/O, C/E, 3/O and two crew members hostage and escaped with their loot. Master, C/E and a crew member sustained injuries	Master, C/O, C/E, 3/O and two crew members held hostage and Master, C/E and a crew member sustained injuries; ship's cash, properties, crew's personal belongings and cash stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. MECC Lumut, MRCC Port Klang, Marine Police HQ, MPA Singapore	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
9	ZADAR Tanker Liberia 26874 8419178	12/05/2004	WEST AFRICA 10NM Offshore Lagos (Nigeria)	Two robbers boarded ship engaged in ship-to-ship operations, while at anchor. They attacked the duty crew on deck and escaped with their loot	Duty crew attacked; ship's stores, equipment and crew's personal effects stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. Nigerian Police	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
10	SINAR BATAM Container ship Panama 16705 9194505	13/05/2004 07:30 UTC	SOUTH CHINA SEA Tanjung Priok Anchorage, Jakarta (Indonesia)	Robbers boarded ship, while at anchor and escaped with their loot. Crew noticed a fishing boat nearby before the incident. Master reported incident to port control	Ship's equipment and a liferaft stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. SAR, Jakarta	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	No response was received from port control
11	NA Fishing vessel Brazil	16/05/2004	SOUTH AMERICA (A) 24°05'.00S 046°19'.00W Ilhas Das Palmas Guaruja, Santos (Brazil)	Three robbers in a red/white aluminium boat boarded ship, while at anchor and escaped with their loot	Ship's equipment, stores and property stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. MRCC, Brazil	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
12	HENRIETTE SCHULTE Container ship Cyprus 16281 9130171	18/05/2004 05:20 LT	WEST AFRICA Dakar Anchorage (Sénégal)	Three armed robbers boarded ship from a fishing boat, while at anchor. When spotted and alert crew mustered, they threatened crew and escaped with their loot. Port authorities were informed via VHF	Duty crew threatened with knives and ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Port authorities and Senegal Navy	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-

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No	Ship's name Type of ship Flag Gross tonnage IMO No.	Date Time	Position of the incident*	Details of the incident	Consequences for crew, ship, cargo	Action taken by the master and the crew	Was the incident reported to the coastal authority? Which one?	Reporting State or international organization	MSC.4/Circ. 53 ANNEX 1 Page 6
									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

#### IN PORT AREA

13	AGATE Tanker Singapore 50063 8413461	19/05/2004 00:20 LT	<i>SOUTH CHINA SEA</i> Balongan Anchorage (Indonesia)	Three robbers armed with knives boarded ship, while at anchor. One of the robbers held oiler at knifepoint whilst the other two ransacked the engine room and escaped with their loot at 02:00LT. Crew was not injured but was traumatised; Master contacted the Indonesian Navy Western Territory via telephone but the operator was unable to communicate in English	Crew held at knifepoint and ship's stores and property stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Indonesian Navy, Balongan Radio and SAR, Jakarta	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Port security officials boarded ship at 05:20LT to investigate
14	SUTRA SATU Chemical tanker Malaysia 4808 8919881	19/05/2004 19:35 UTC	<i>MALACCA STRAIT</i> Belawan Anchorage (Indonesia)	Three armed robbers boarded ship, while at anchor. When spotted and crew mustered, they jumped overboard and escaped with their loot. Attempts were made by Master to contact port authorities	Ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. SAR, Jakarta	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	No response from port authorities
15	RUHUNUPURA Container ship Sri Lanka 5967 8120959	25/05/2004 03:50 LT	<i>INDIAN OCEAN</i> Chennai Anchorage (India)	Four robbers armed with knives in a green-coloured boat with white stripe came alongside and one of them boarded ship, while at anchor. When spotted and crew mustered, they escaped empty-handed. Port authorities and Coast Guard were informed	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Port Authority, Coast Guard, MRCC, Mumbai and Coast Guard, Chennai	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-

#### IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	MASTER NICOS Bulk carrier Greece 37222 8716708	24/05/2004 19:50 UTC	<i>SOUTH CHINA SEA</i> 01°43'.00S 117°10'.00E Makassar Strait (Indonesia)	Two robbers boarded ship, while underway and when spotted by alert D/O, they jumped overboard and escaped. Balikpapan was called via VHF, but no response was received	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. SAR, Jakarta	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	No response from Balikpapan
2	TIGER CLOUD Container ship Liberia 13315 8520408	26/05/2004	<i>INDIAN OCEAN</i> Chennai Roads (India)	Four robbers in a boat boarded ship using grapnel hooks attached to a rope, while at anchor and four accomplices waited in a boat. Alert crew spotted them and robbers stabbed one crew member and escaped empty-handed	One crew member stabbed	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Coast Guard	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-

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## ANNEX 2

Acts of piracy and armed robbery allegedly attempted against ships reported by  
Member States or international organizations in consultative status

N <sup>o</sup>	Ship's name Type of ship Flag Gross tonnage IMO No.	Date Time	Position of the incident*	Details of the incident	Consequences for crew, ship, cargo	Action taken by the master and the crew	Was the incident reported to the coastal authority? Which one?	Reporting State or international organization	MSC.4/Circ. 53 ANNEX 2 Page 1
									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS</b>									
1	SUN GAS Gas carrier-LPG Panama 3392 9172753	29/05/2004 21:20 LT	MALACCA STRAIT 05°05'.10N 100°10'.20E	Three very fast grey-coloured speed boats approached ship attempting to board, while underway. One boat lay ahead and the other two followed close on PORT and STBD quarter. As crew mustered and initiated anti-piracy measures, they abandoned attempt, followed for 40 minutes and fled	-	Raised alarm, mustered crew, sounded whistle and directed searchlights	Yes. MRCC Port Klang, MECC Lumut, Marine Police HQ, MINDEF DOR and LAUT and SAR, Jakarta	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
<b>IN PORT AREA</b>									
1	ARAMIS A. Bulk carrier Cyprus 14364 7930486	15/05/2004 02:10 LT	WEST AFRICA B1 Inner Road Anchorage, Freetown (Sierra Leone)	Four robbers attempted to board ship via hawse pipe, while at anchor. Alert duty A/B spotted them, sounded ship's whistle and as crew mustered, they abandoned attempt and fled. The Freetown Signal Station was informed	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Freetown Signal Station and Sierra Leone High Commission, United Kingdom	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	A naval patrol was sent to the area
2	BROTHER GLORY Bulk carrier United Kingdom 27105 9143489	19/05/2004 04:35 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA SPA Berth No.1 A/B, Sandakan Port (Malaysia)	Five robbers in a light-coloured boat, about seven metres long, approached ship at bow attempting to board, using long poles with hooks, while at berth. When spotted and crew mustered and shouted at them, they retorted "very poor, very poor", started the boat's engine and moved towards the oil jetty	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Port authorities, MRCC, Port Klang and Marine Police Headquarters	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
3	MAERSK FREMANTLE Container ship United Kingdom 9990 9252802	20/05/2004 02:20 LT	SOUTH AMERICA (C) Puerto Cortes Anchorage (Honduras)	Three robbers attempted to board ship via anchor chain, while at anchor and when spotted by duty crew, they escaped empty-handed in a small wooden boat. Port control was informed	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Port control and RCC, Honduras	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
4	RUHUNUPURA Container ship Sri Lanka 5967 8120959	27/05/2004	INDIAN OCEAN Chennai Anchorage (India)	Robbers armed with knives and swords attempted to board ship, while at anchor. When spotted by alert crew, they tried to escape in a speed boat but were chased and apprehended by the Coast Guard who subsequently handed them over to the local police	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Port Trust and Coast Guard	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Coast Guard deployed a patrol vessel, apprehended robbers and handed them over to the local police

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									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**IN TERRITORIAL WATERS**

1	MARYLEBONE Bulk carrier United Kingdom 27581 9220718	16/05/2004 07:15 UTC	INDIAN OCEAN 13°06'.00N 080°22'.00E Outer Roads, Chennai (India)	Eight robbers armed with long knives and chopper attempted to board ship from astern, while underway. Alert duty A/B spotted them and as crew mustered, they abandoned attempt and fled. Chennai port was informed via VHF	-	Raied alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Chennai Port and Coast Guard and Coast Guard HQ, India	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
2	JURONG BEBARU Container ship Singapore 8155 9155511	24/05/2004 13:18 UTC	SOUTH CHINA SEA 00°54'.00N 105°04'.00E Selat Berhala (Indonesia)	Two black rubberised boats with twin outboard motors and about eight robbers in each boat approached ship, attempting to board, while underway. When spotted by alert duty crew and crew mustered and directed searchlights, the boats moved away. Radar did not pick up echo as the boats were rubberised	-	Raised alarm, mustered crew, directed searchlights and increased speed to maximum	Yes. SAR, Jakarta	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-

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